



Rowe: Rescued soldiers from stormy sea.

Rowe swam the disabled soldier to shore, while encouraging the other soldier to keep on swimming.

MAJ Russell Rowe, commander of the Army Health Clinic in Livorno, Italy, thought it was just going to be another day at the beach. Instead, the former special forces physician chose to risk his own life to rescue two soldiers caught in a strong undertow near the American Beach at Camp Darby, Italy.

The day was unseasonably windy and chilly. But the strong wind and rough surf didn't keep four U.S. soldiers, who'd come to the beach for a weekend break, from diving in to enjoy it. Local lifeguards had ordered the red flag raised at the beach, signifying dangerous swimming conditions. It also meant no lifeguards would be posted.

Waves that day averaged two to three meters high. And under red flag conditions, even a lifeguard who happens to be on the beach isn't authorized to risk his life — without assistance — to save someone.

Rowe was on the beach with his family when the soldiers were swept out to sea by a strong undertow, two of them some 300 meters out. Rowe immediately dove into the ocean, realizing there was no time to have someone attach a safety line.

When Rowe reached the two, one was exhausted from trying to support the other, who could no longer swim. Rowe swam the disabled soldier to shore, while verbally encouraging the other soldier to keep on swimming.

Meantime, a lifeguard, using a safety line, had reached the other two soldiers who were closer in.

Officials at Southern European Task Force headquarters said without Rowe's assistance the two soldiers would probably not have survived.

"There've been only three times in my life I thought I was going to die, and this was one of them. When I realized their lives were in danger, I simply reacted," Rowe said at a recent ceremony in which BG Richard L. Ursone, commander of Europe Regional Medical Command, presented him the Soldier's Medal for heroism in peacetime. — *Chiara Mattiolo, Camp Darby Public Affairs Office*

He was president of the United States, but his name appears on the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes as **LTC Theodore Roosevelt**.

On an opposing wall is the name of his son, **BG Theodore Roosevelt Jr.**, an Army Reserve hero of both world wars.

The elder Roosevelt was formally inducted into the Hall of Heroes — described as the Pentagon's most sacred place, where all the nation's Medal of Honor recipients are listed — in a Pentagon ceremony July 16. Two other Army MOH recipients, one from the Civil War and one from the Vietnam War, were also inducted.

CPL Andrew Jackson Smith of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry received the recognition for saving the regimental colors during the Battle of Honey Hill, S.C., on Nov. 30, 1863. **CPT Ed W. Freeman** of Company A, 229th Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, made 14 flights, under intense fire, into Landing Zone X-Ray on Nov. 14, 1965, bringing in supplies to a heavily engaged infantry battalion and taking out wounded. He received his MOH on July 16 from President George W. Bush and wore it proudly at the induction ceremony.

The elder Roosevelt earned the MOH for his actions during the Spanish-American War at the battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba, on July 1, 1898, while in command of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cav. Regiment, better known as the "Rough Riders."

A former officer in the New York National Guard, Roosevelt resigned his post as assistant secretary of the Navy at the beginning

Theodore Roosevelt's great-great grandson, Winthrop Roosevelt (second from right), joined (from left to right) Army Chief of Staff GEN Eric K. Shinseki, Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota and SMA Jack Tilley at the ceremony.



of the Spanish-American War to accept a commission as a lieutenant colonel in the Rough Riders, which he helped recruit, organize, train and lead to Cuba.

After leading the much publicized charge up Kettle Hill, on the right flank of the attack on San Juan Hill, he was elected governor of New York and vice president under President William McKinley. Roosevelt became president after McKinley's 1901 assassination. Elected in his own right in 1904, he is recognized as one of the nation's most dynamic presidents. He died on Jan. 6, 1919 at the age of 60.

Roosevelt's eldest son's service in the Organized Reserves, as the Army Reserve was then called, lasted more than 25 years, from before World War I until his death during World War II.

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. served in both world wars, earning every combat decoration available to a foot soldier. During World War I he commanded a battalion of the 26th U.S. Inf. Regiment, 1st Inf. Div., and then the regiment itself. He was gassed and severely wounded during combat in France and was decorated five times.

Recalled to active duty in April 1941 and promoted to brigadier general in December 1941, Roosevelt served as assistant division commander of the 1st Inf. Div. throughout the North African and Sicily campaigns. Transferring to the 4th Inf. Div. as its assistant division commander, Roosevelt insisted on leading it ashore in the first wave on D-Day, the first general officer to land on a Normandy beach. He was awarded the MOH for his actions at Utah Beach on June 6, 1944.

Roosevelt died of a heart attack at the age of 56 on July 12, 1944, in Normandy and received the MOH posthumously on Sept. 28. — *LTC Randy Pullen, Office of the Chief, Army Reserve*

SGT Keith Sieracki, a member of the World Class Athlete Program, has been seeking redemption since the U.S. trials for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney,

Australia, where he won in the 167.5-pound Greco-Roman weight class, but was denied a spot on the U.S. Olympic team by a controversial court ruling.

Recently, after a convincing win at the World Team Trials in Cincinnati, Ohio, Sieracki earned the right to compete at wrestling's World Championships in New York.

Sieracki and **SGT Dominic Black**, the other Army World Team Trials champion, led a powerful All-Army wrestling team at

the Cincinnati tournament. The Army team had six wrestlers in the finals of the team trials and placed eight wrestlers on the U.S. national team, a first, according to team coach Shon Lewis. Black wrestles in the Freestyle 213.75-pound weight class.

Sieracki dominated New York Athletic Club's T.C. Dantzler 9-0 in their first bout in the best-of-three finals competition, but the second bout was closer.

"I knew in the second match he was going to come out strong," said Sieracki. "I had to stay focused and stay in position to win the match and get out of there with a level head."

Like Sieracki and Marine Sgt. Marcel Cooper, Black didn't wrestle until the last day of competition. Other wrestlers competed the first two days for a chance to wrestle the Nationals champions on the last day. The finals bouts were best of three.

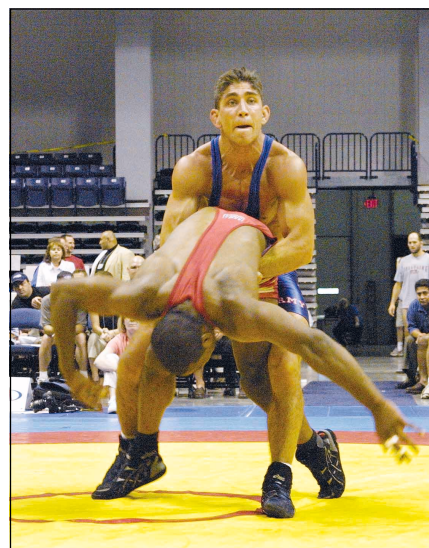
Black returned to the mat determined to prevent his opponent from scoring two and three pointers. The second match was a defensive struggle for the freestylers, ending in a 3-1 win for Black. Halfway through the third match, Black hit a three-point takedown off a lifting double. The match ended 5-0 for Black.

"You don't lose matches giving up one pointers, you lose matches when you give up two and three pointers," Black said after his finals victory. "That's what I did in the first match, but I was able to stop that in the second and third matches."

Cooper also needed three matches against Army wrestler Keith Wilson to win the 152-pound Greco-Roman title. All three matches went into overtime. In the first, a two-point penalty against Wilson gave Cooper a 2-1 victory. Wilson bounced back in the second match, which stood at 2-2 at the end of the second period. A one-point penalty against Cooper in overtime gave Wilson the match. In the rubber match, Cooper led 2-0 going into overtime. A one-point penalty against Wilson in overtime gave Cooper the match and the title.

Other Army wrestlers in the finals of the Greco-Roman competition included **PFC Glenn Garrison**, **SPC Jason Loukides** and **SPC Dremiel Byers**, who took Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner to overtime in both matches before losing. — *Douglas Ide, Community and Family Support Center PAO*

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Sieracki: Wrestling winner.

